



State of California  
The Natural Resources Agency  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**PROJECT TITLE** North Sacramento Headwaters Fuel Reduction

**PROJECT LOCATION** The project is located on the north side of the city of Mount Shasta.  
Legal Description: T40N, R4W, Sec. 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10 and T40N, R5W, Sec. 1 MDBM **COUNTY** Siskiyou

**LEAD AGENCY** California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

**CONTACT** Giselle Nova

**ADDRESS** Nova-Vita Natural Resource Management  
206 Shasta Avenue, Mount Shasta, CA 96067 **PHONE** 530-926-2089

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project will involve of the installation of a 150 acre shaded fuel break approximately 5.5 miles in length and up to 600 feet in width. The project area is located on the north side of the community of Mount Shasta. The east side is within the city limits and residential development and extends west to follow the east side Interstate 5 for a short distance before continuing west through residential development in an unincorporated area adjacent to the city. Much of the area is characterized by a sparse to moderately dense, mixed conifer stand 80 to 100 years of age. The understory is composed of moderate to dense occurrences of brush species, conifer in-growth and moderate amounts of fine woody debris. A significant portion of the eastern half of the project area is characterized by moderate to dense thickets of brush species dominated by green leaf manzanita and bitter cherry. Slopes ranging from 0% to 45%, and there are two water courses within the project area.

A masticator will be used to treat 70% of the area largely occupied by brush species, and hand crews will be utilized to treat the remaining 30% which is characterized by conifer and hardwood trees intermixed with brush species. Within the hand treatment area approximately 5% of the area will be treated by cutting and chipping vegetation while the remaining 25% will be cut, piled and burned on site.

Hand treatment will entail removing a majority of the brush species, thinning understory trees 10" DBH or less, pruning leave trees to a height of 6 to 10 feet and remove existing ground fuels between 1 and 10 inches in diameter. Chipped material will be evenly distributed on site. Burn piles will be established as far as possible from residual trees and shrubs and will not be established within 50 feet of a watercourse. Burning will only be conducted during safe climatic conditions in compliance with a burn permit and piles will be established no larger than 6 feet in height and 10 feet in diameter.

Mastication treatment will entail shredding 70% to 80% of the brush species. Individual shrubs will be maintained on 15 to 20 foot spacing as a means to reduce visual impacts and maintain remnants of wildlife habitat.

No healthy, mature, scenic trees will be removed.

### EXEMPTION STATUS

- ☒ Categorical Exemption Type/Section: **Class 4 Pursuant to §15304 (e) Minor Alterations to Land**  
☐ Statutory Exemption (state code section):  
☐ Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)  
☐ Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))  
☐ Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

### REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

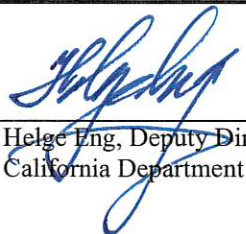
This project fits within the above-listed Categorical Exemption listed in the CEQA Guidelines. Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review is kept on file at CAL FIRE Siskiyou Unit Headquarters, 1809 Fairlane Road, Yreka, CA 96097 – Attention Environmental Coordinator.

GOVERNMENT RESEARCH

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

11/22/2016

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

  
Helge Eng, Deputy Director Date  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

11/21/16